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Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 14 April 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the note verbale dated 14 April 2014 sent to the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations in its capacity as the chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on the issue of the denial of a visa to the newly designated Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations by the authorities of the host country of the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166.

(*Signed*) Gholamhossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 14 April 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations in its capacity as the chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and has the honour to state the following:

Mr. Hamid Aboutalebi has been designated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to serve as its new Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He applied for a United States entry visa several months ago and the case has been pending before the United States Government as the host State of the United Nations. Eventually, an official spokesperson of the United States Administration said on Friday, 11 April 2014, that "we have informed the United Nations and Iran that we will not issue a visa to Mr. Aboutalebi".

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations expresses its serious concern over the clear indication of a refusal to grant a visa by the host country authorities in breach of their legal obligations under international law and the Headquarters Agreement. The Agreement unambiguously states that its provisions shall be "applicable irrespective of the relations existing between the Governments of the persons referred to in that section and the Government of the United States". The denial of a visa to a representative of a State Member of the United Nations is in contravention of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of the sovereign equality of States and respect for their sovereignty and political independence.

Indeed, this decision of the United States Government has negative implications for multilateral diplomacy and will create a dangerous precedent and adversely affect the work of intergovernmental organizations and the activities of their Member States. The decision must, therefore, be well addressed by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests that the Committee address this issue in an extraordinary and urgent manner.